

S.256

Introduced by Senator Campbell of Windsor

Referred to Committee on Government Operations

Date: January 7, 2014

Subject: Health; marriage records and licenses; persons authorized to
solemnize marriage; application to a Judicial Bureau hearing officer

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to permit a
Judicial Bureau hearing officer to solemnize a marriage.

An act relating to the solemnization of a marriage by a Judicial Bureau
hearing officer

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

~~Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 5144 is amended to read.~~

~~§ 5144. PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE~~

~~(a) Marriages may be solemnized by a ~~supreme court justice~~ Supreme
Court Justice, a ~~superior~~ Superior judge, a judge of ~~probate~~ Probate, an
assistant judge, a justice of the peace, a magistrate, a Judicial Bureau hearing
officer, an individual who has registered as an officiant with the Vermont
~~secretary of state~~ Secretary of State pursuant to section 5144a of this title, a
member of the clergy residing in this ~~state~~ State and ordained or licensed, or
otherwise regularly authorized thereunto by the published laws or discipline of~~

1 ~~the general conference, convention, or other authority of his or her faith or~~
2 denomination, or by such a clergy person residing in an adjoining state or
3 country, whose parish, church, temple, mosque, or other religious organization
4 lies wholly or in part in this ~~state~~ State, or by a member of the clergy residing
5 in some other state of the United States or in the Dominion of Canada,
6 provided he or she has first secured from the ~~probate division of the superior~~
7 ~~court~~ Probate Division of the Superior Court in the unit within which the
8 marriage is to be solemnized a special authorization, authorizing him or her to
9 certify the marriage if the ~~probate~~ Probate judge determines that the
10 circumstances make the special authorization desirable. Marriage among the
11 Friends or Quakers, the Christadelphian Ecclesia, and the Baha'i Faith may be
12 solemnized in the manner heretofore used in such societies.

13 * * *

14 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 ~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.~~

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 5144 is amended to read:

§ 5144. PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE

(a) Marriages may be solemnized by a ~~supreme court justice~~ Supreme Court Justice, a ~~superior~~ Superior judge, a judge of ~~probate~~ Probate, an assistant judge, a justice of the peace, a magistrate, a Judicial Bureau hearing officer, an individual who has registered as an officiant with the Vermont ~~secretary of state~~ Secretary of State pursuant to section 5144a of this title, a member of the clergy residing in this ~~state~~ State and ordained or licensed, or otherwise regularly authorized thereunto by the published laws or discipline of the general conference, convention, or other authority of his or her faith or denomination, or by such a clergy person residing in an adjoining state or country, whose parish, church, temple, mosque, or other religious organization

lies wholly or in part in this ~~state~~ State, or by a member of the clergy residing in some other state of the United States or in the Dominion of Canada, provided he or she has first secured from the ~~probate division of the superior court~~ Probate Division of the Superior Court in the unit within which the marriage is to be solemnized a special authorization, authorizing him or her to certify the marriage if the ~~probate~~ Probate judge determines that the circumstances make the special authorization desirable. Marriage among the Friends or Quakers, the Christadelphian Ecclesia, ~~and~~ the Baha'i Faith may be solemnized in the manner heretofore used in such societies.

* * *

Sec. 2. RECIPROCAL BENEFICIARIES; REPEAL; INTENT

(a) The stated purpose of the reciprocal beneficiaries is to provide two persons who are blood-relatives or related by adoption the opportunity to establish a consensual reciprocal beneficiaries relationship so they may receive the benefits and protections and be subject to the responsibilities that are granted to spouses in specific areas. Since enactment in 2000, no reciprocal beneficiary relationship has been established in Vermont.

(b) 15 V.S.A. chapter 25 is repealed (reciprocal beneficiaries).

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.